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CULTURAL eMAGAZINE

# INK OCHi

FIRST OF ITS KIND FROM KERALA

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DEC 03-09, 2021

34

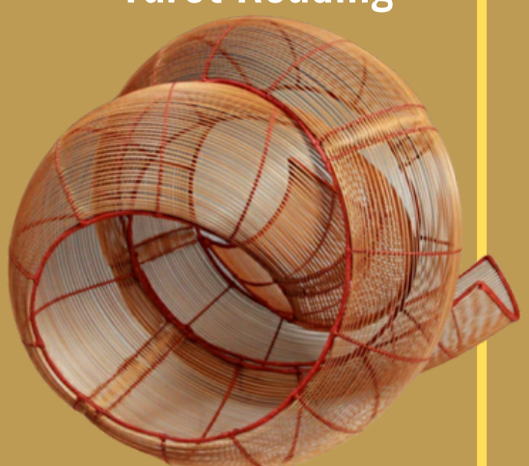
## A six-piece band based in Kochi brings rock culture in Kerala to life with their sounds

By: Alicen Jacob

- Amazing to Know
- Lotus Leaves
- Tarot Reading

SILENT FAREWELLS
Ravi Shanker

Japanese
BAMBOO Art



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## Editor's Note

# Music in Our Daily Lives

Music is the greatest creation of man, which has the capacity to touch the soul and sympathetically express the unspoken desire and humanity in him. The effect music has on a human being is what separates him from animals. The power of music is very potent in the life of human beings. It has the ability to break boundaries and unite people from different backgrounds and cultural heritage.

Indeed, there is a lot to say about music, making it one of the most important ingredients in the life of human beings of all races and religions. In fact, music can best be described as a wonderful force that is capable of bonding people together and instituting international brotherhood, love as well as peace. This editorial is dedicated to the importance of music.

The power of music is such that it can draw millions of people from different parts of the world and uplift them emotionally. It exists in the heart and bone marrow of every man. For that reason, music can easily be used as an instrument of peace when there is chaos between people of different origins and backgrounds. You can easily notice this particular effect of music especially when you have an issue with your partner and he/she suddenly starts to play the music you love to hear. If you are a strong hearted human being you may not settle the issue over a song but the annoyance in your mind will gradually subside just because of the music!

Happy Reading...!!
Varghese T. Thomas

# Watercolour to Lotus Leaves

**"Lotus Leaves" watercolor on paper (38x56cm)**

Hot off the easel! (Yes, I paint upright on an easel in watercolor.) I wanted to capture the subsurface scattering of the light shining through the leaves in a lotus pond and the brightness of the sunlight. I took a cell phone photo for reference when the lotus flowers had already lost their petals and the fruit remained. This kept the focus on the leaves rather than colourful blossoms. I also cropped in and removed distracting reflections from the other side of the pond.

BARBARA ROSENWEIG

# Watercolour to Lotus Leaves

For this painting I knew I wanted to have the dominant colour be green with emphasis placed on the central grouping of leaves by using red-orange for some of those leaves. This is a near complementary pair. For the high chroma greens I chose Phthalo Blue and Azo Yellow Light. I knew I would need to go very dark so that I could show colours in the light areas without them appearing too dark.

I chose Quinacridone Rose to complete a primary triad palette.(see photo of palette) Quin Rose doesn't make the highest chroma red-oranges, but, since the rest of the scene would be so green, I didn't need the red-orange to be as high chroma. Since all of these pigments are highly transparent, it is easy to glaze and to create rich darks. You will notice that my mixing process on the palette is very fluid, letting me mix quickly and with lots of variation.

I did a very minimal sketch of the main leaves in graphite and then did the rest of the drawing with the brush. I planned for colour coronas around the highlights so I drew them with red using my brush to help me remember to save the white of the paper. I blocked in the highest chroma leaves first so I could key the rest of the painting to them as I developed them. I also blocked in some of the lotus fruit so I wouldn't accidentally paint over them with the background.

As I continued drawing smaller and smaller shapes with the brush, I gradually built up the reflections and darker areas of the scene. I painted lighter shapes first and then painted around them. There was a lot of negative space painting involved in this painting. I decided to make some of the lotus fruit much darker to use their opacity to contrast the translucency of the leaves. When I felt that the water was dark enough to support the focal area, I signed the painting and stopped.

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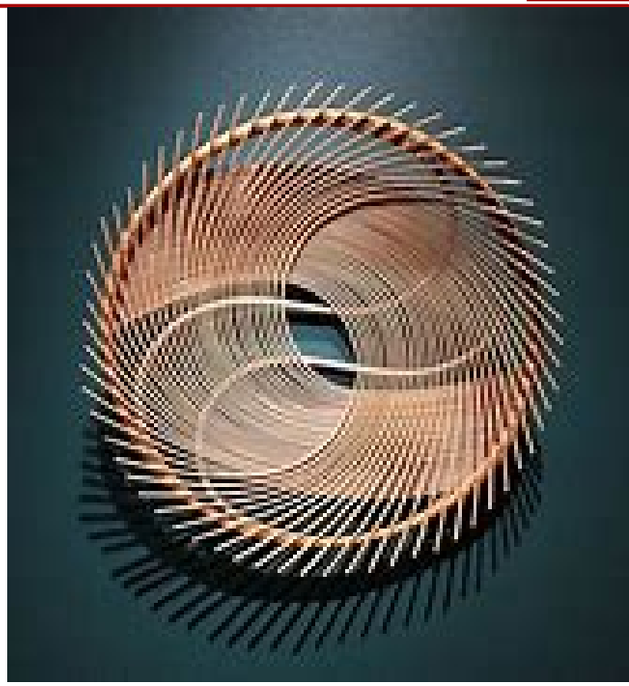
**Bamboo combines lightness, strength, and flexibility with natural beauty. In Japan, it is used to make rope, furniture, fishing rods, musical instruments, cloth, and, of course, art.**



# JAPANESE BAMBOO ART

BY: ISHAI MARIO

The Japanese people have been making baskets out of bamboo for thousands of years; however, it was the flowering of tea ceremony in Japanese culture after the 15th century that led to a demand for finely made bamboo tea articles and elaborate Chinese-style flower arranging vessels. A pool of talented bamboo artisans developed to meet this demand.

# JAPANESE BAMBOO ART

The mid-19th century saw the first appearance of ambitious, artist-signed baskets and the development of an original Japanese style. These early bamboo artists excelled at both traditional formal Chinese-style baskets and the wabi-sabi Japanese aesthetic, which embraces imperfection, simplicity, and irregularity. This period established the technical and philosophical standards for bamboo artists to come.

Bamboo is an incredibly expressive and demanding medium. It takes an artist many years to acquire the basic skills and techniques of harvesting, processing, splitting, dyeing, weaving, bending and knotting. Mastery is a life-long process

The 20th century saw the development of radical new ideas about what a bamboo basket could be. The first completely sculptural bamboo works emerged in the postwar period. Today's bamboo artists continue to expand and refine these traditions with the understanding that the artist's creative vision, whether expressed through a sculptural form or a functional vessel, is as important as their technical mastery.

# JAPANESE BAMBOO ART

## History of Japanese Bamboo Art: The First Baskets

### The Higashimyo Site

The earliest known baskets in Japan date back to 7900-7700 BC. These baskets, which were unearthed at the Higashimyo site in Saga City in 2003, were made by the Jomon people. They were skilled basket makers and employed almost all of the basic plaiting techniques that are in use today. The baskets from Higashimyo were made mostly from soapberry wood and vines. It is still unclear when people in Japan began to use bamboo to make baskets, but the oldest bamboo basket that has been found dates to around 3000 BC.

## The Origins of Ritual and Religious Basket Making Traditions

Shinto and Buddhism peacefully co-exist in Japan. Shinto is as old as Japanese culture itself, and Buddhism was introduced to Japan from China in the 6th century. It was at this time that the custom of placing an offering of flower petals in shallow bamboo trays before an image of Buddha began.

By the Heian period (794-1185), the flower offering ceremony was being practiced at the private altars of aristocratic Buddhist families. Over time, arrangements of stemmed flowers replaced the original offering of petals. By the early Kamakura period (1192-1333), the offering or presentation of flowers was beginning to spread outside of a solely religious context. Flower arrangements became more ornamental and relocated to family living quarters and formal reception rooms, where they were featured as important design elements.

# JAPANESE BAMBOO ART

## History of Japanese Bamboo Art: Japanese Appreciation of Chinese Baskets

In 1404, during the reign of the 3rd Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu (1358-1408), a trade relationship was established with China's Ming Dynasty. As a result, large quantities of Chinese art were imported into Japan, setting off a prevailing fashion for Chinese art appreciation and connoisseurship among the Japanese elite

Included among these treasured objects, known as *karamono* (Chinese things), were impeccably crafted, stately bamboo baskets decorated with elaborate rattan wrapping and knotting. These imported baskets were valued by collectors and connoisseurs not for their functional or ritual utility, but as objects of beauty. They were often displayed with a flowering tree branch selected to compliment the dark, formal form of the basket.

This connoisseurship and presentation of objects eventually became standardized by a group of men known as *doboshu* — servants to the shogun and other high-ranking nobles who were professional men of taste and artistic discrimination. Their duties included the preparation and supervision of important social events, with a particular focus on the curation and arrangement of objects. Beyond establishing the aesthetic standards of the day, the *doboshu* played an important role in the development of the Japanese tea ceremony.

# JAPANESE BAMBOO ART

## Sen no Rikyu and Wabi Tea Ceremony

During the Muromachi (1336-1573) and Momoyama (1568-1600) periods, Chinese bamboo baskets would have continued to be featured with elaborate, vertical flower arrangements as part of an opulent presentation of art objects. However, a new, more austere aesthetic was beginning to emerge. This new style was epitomized by Sen no Rikyu (1522-1591), the famous proponent of the *wabi* tea ceremony.

While formal “standing” flower arrangements continued to be used for ceremonial and public occasions, toss-in style arrangements reigned in small, private tearooms throughout Japan. These freer, more rustic arrangements, composed most often of wildflowers, were presented in roughly woven baskets or undecorated earthenware vases

With the establishment of many tea schools patterned on his ideals, Rikyu’s philosophy came to define tea ceremony for most people, and he had a profound influence on many branches of Japanese art and expanded the sense of what made a basket beautiful. Despite Rikyu’s embrace of rustic baskets, there was no increase in appreciation for Japanese-made folk baskets. Only if such a basket was used by Rikyu or one of his successors, was it considered beautiful and appropriate for use in tea ceremonies.

However, the popularization of *wabi* style did have an enormous impact on the imported basket market. Beginning in Rikyu’s time, tea masters and practitioners sought out simple baskets from rural China and Southeast Asia. Regardless of stylistic difference and place of origin, these baskets were all referred to in Japan as *karamono* (Chinese things).

# JAPANESE BAMBOO ART

## Bamboo Baskets and Senchado

About 100 years later, during the mid-Edo period (1603-1867), another major shift occurred regarding the tea ceremony — the introduction of the *sencha* (infused tea) ceremony. This antithesis to *wabi* tea ceremony was spread by the Zen monk Baisao (1675-1763) and gained strong support among Japanese free thinkers of the time. Based on the philosophy and method of drinking brewed tea leaves developed by the Chinese literati of the Ming Dynasty, *senchado* stood in opposition to the formal hierarchies of the *matcha*- (powdered tea) based *chanoyu* and accompanying cultural values.

Formal *karamono* baskets were incorporated into *sencha* gatherings of the Japanese literati. They were typically displayed with seasonal flowers, plants and other natural objects complementary to the theme of each event. Towards the end of the Edo period and during the Meiji period (1868-1912) the *sencha* tea ceremony flourished.

During the Edo period, due to the isolationist trade policies enforced by the Tokugawa Shogunate, genuine Chinese imports were in short supply. Even after the Meiji government opened trade relationships with other nations, years of turmoil and economic decline meant that Chinese craftsmen were no longer creating expensive, intricate bamboo baskets.

So, in response to the demand for *karamono* baskets, particularly by *senchado* practitioners, highly skilled Japanese basket makers began to replicate earlier examples of Chinese baskets down to the minutest detail.

# JAPANESE BAMBOO ART

Japan is about as far north as most species of bamboo can grow. Consequently, Japanese bamboo tends to be stiffer in comparison to that which grows in regions further south. Recreating the intricate forms of antique Chinese baskets with a material that behaved differently was extremely difficult, forcing Japanese bamboo artisans to raise their skills dramatically. They also began using the flexible skin of the rattan plant for delicate decorative elements, which were a hallmark of *karamono* baskets. However, since rattan is not indigenous to Japan, importing this exotic climbing palm from Southeast Asia increased the cost of the baskets considerably. Despite their imitative nature, the *karamono* baskets being created by master craftsmen in the Edo and Meiji periods were in no way cheap copies of the early Chinese baskets.

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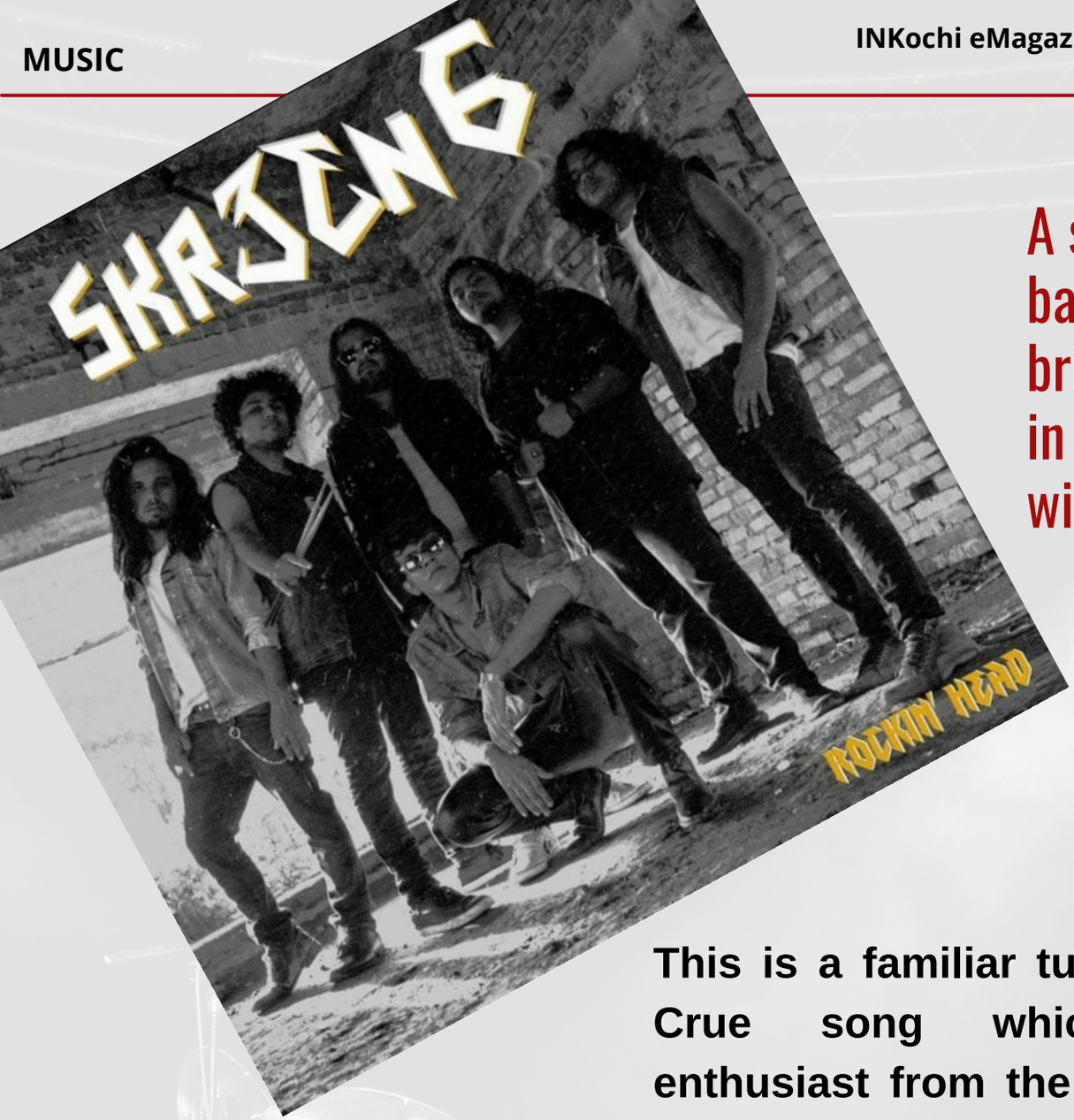



# A six-piece band based in Kochi brings rock culture in Kerala to life with their sounds

By: Alicen Jacob

*I'm on my way*
*I'm on my way*
*Home sweet home*

**This is a familiar tune of the Motley Crue song which no music enthusiast from the 80's would ever forget. In fact, this song should be credited for bringing six rock music lovers together under the name *Skreen 6*. "It all began with doing the cover for *Home Sweet Home*. After completing it, we thought, why not compose original music rather than doing covers which is being done by many all around the world. It all happened in a jiffy and seven months later we have seven originals and one cover to be released" says Salas Stewert.**

Emergence of Rock music bands from Kerala is not something new. Elite Aces, Hijackers, 13 AD, MotherJane, Evergreen and others which arose since the late 1960's are all too familiar to those who don't mind listening to different genres of music which might not be Rock per se. Gradually with the coming in of electronic music and later hip hop the popularity of Rock slowly dwindled. Still, there have been youngsters keeping the soul of Rock alive in its diverse forms.

Now thanks to Amal Dev Nambiar (lead vocals) M Krishnan (lead guitar) Dibin Savio (keyboard) and Adithya K. M. (drums) Jayakrishnan P. S. (bass guitar) Salas Stewert (vocals and rhythm guitar), through ***Skreen 6***, Rock music is witnessing a new birth and will continue to enliven both the young and the old.

**SHOW DETAILS:**
**Let There Be Rock**
**APPETITE FOR DESTRUCTION VOL II**

**Venue: NoshHaus, Aluva, Near Kochi**
**Date: Dec 12, 2021**
**Entry limited**

**Adithya K M - Drums**

SKREEN 6

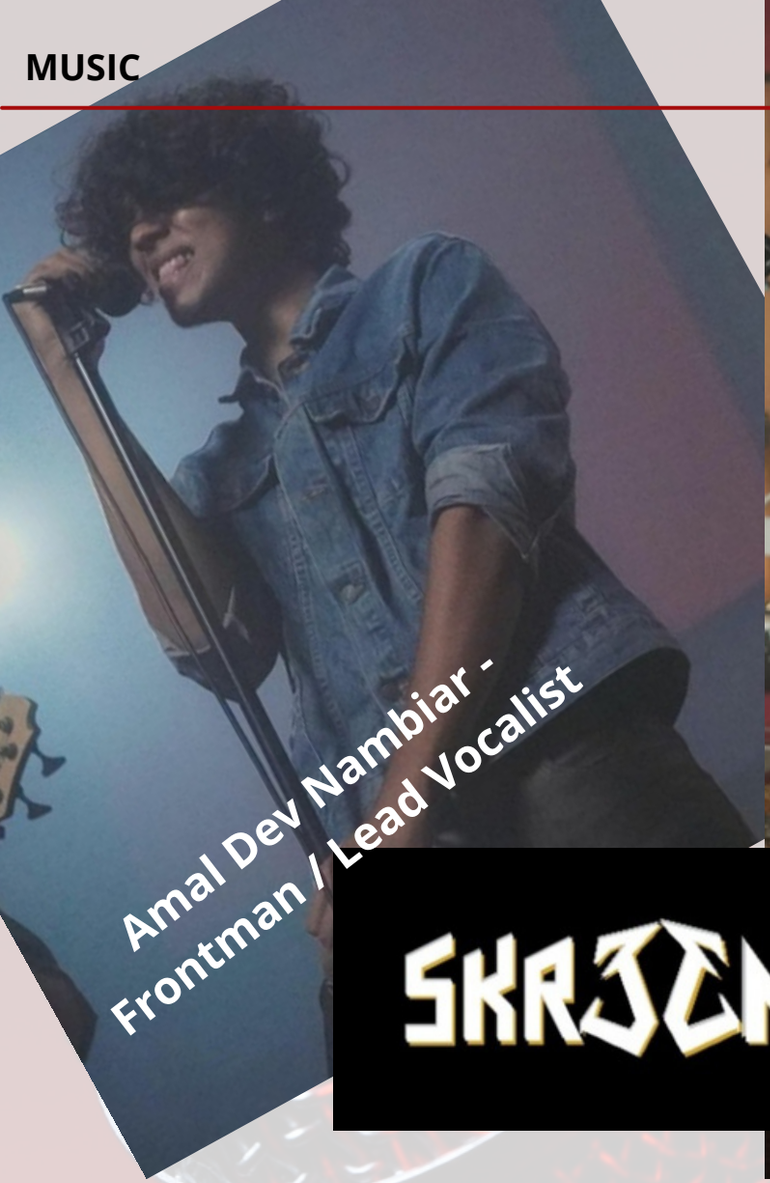
Jayakrishnan P S - Bass Guitar

Salas Stewert - Backing Vocals / Rhythm

***Imma keep on rockin till I'm dead...***
***I got a rockin in my head***
***It went the way the legends said***
***Imma take it to my death bed***
***Who'er said that this is the end…***

So they sing in their new release ***Rockin' Head*** which surprisingly hit 10k views within the first week of its release.

When enquired about the name of the band, whose members are all under 25 years of age, this is what they said, "we all were part of different bands which focussed on covers. Incidentally we met through mutual friends and immediately developed a good rapport. We produced a cover on *Home Sweet Home*, at the completion of which the thoughts of producing original old school Hard Rock music began. All this happened during the second wave of Covid-19. Our meetings were all online and this made us arrive at the name Skreen 6… the six faces on the screen! Surprisingly, we had the first jamming session only after the track was complete!"



SKREEN 6

The transition from doing cover to composing original tracks has given them freedom they say. “Now we no longer have to worry about things like doing justice to the original while doing a cover” says Aditya, and it has helped them to push the boundaries, to rise to a new realm. Skreen 6 is now looking forward to their live performance at Let There Be Rock show at Aluva on December 12, where they will be playing four of their seven original tracks.

Calvin J. Alex, a young music enthusiast was quite impressed by the only song released by the band the previous month. “Skreen 6's Rockin’ Head has done a very good job in bringing back the Hard Rock/Punk genre to the mainstream again. The song starts with a Guitar riff which Crescendos into a steady and punchy intro with an intense and tight drum section, a running bass and a powerful Guitar hook. What more could you ask for a Punk Rock song? I’m sure that this band is gonna be in the scene for a long time.”

Dibin Savio Jude - Keyboard

SKREEN 6

To maintain the feel of the original Rock music Skreen 6 has resorted to recording live drumming and vocals with minimal use of technology. They are planning to release their original tracks along with cover of *Home Sweet Home* on not just the online platform (Spotify) but in the form of CD's as well. This will happen in the beginning of 2022.

Although the pandemic was the reason behind the formation of the band, it still proposes the challenge of holding live shows. Yet this young band of six is hopeful to spread its wings, and establish new ties with both the young and the old by overcoming the stereotypical notions held about Rock bands.

Writer - **Alicen Roshiny Jacob** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English, Aquinas College, Edacochin, Kerala. She writes poetry and fiction on her blog Loner by the Lamppost. Her work was featured in INKochi Cultural Magazine. She has written three cover stories (one a translation) for the same and is now a member of their editorial board. In between her roles as an educator, researcher and mother, Alicen loves to dabble her hands in paint and finds cycling relaxing.
Reach at: alicen.ink@gmail.com

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Music: Noby Paul | Vocals: Toms Joy - Dubai
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Design: Subin Kumar

PRESENTS
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Mazhavillu Viriyumbol
Lyrics : NAIBY SONISH | Music: NOBY PAUL
Vocal: GAYATHRY RAJIV (Mazhavil Manorama Super 4 Contestant)
BGM: AJAYAN K. S. | Studio: GEETHAM MEDIA STUDIO, KOCHI
Recorded, Mix & Mastered: JINTO JOHN
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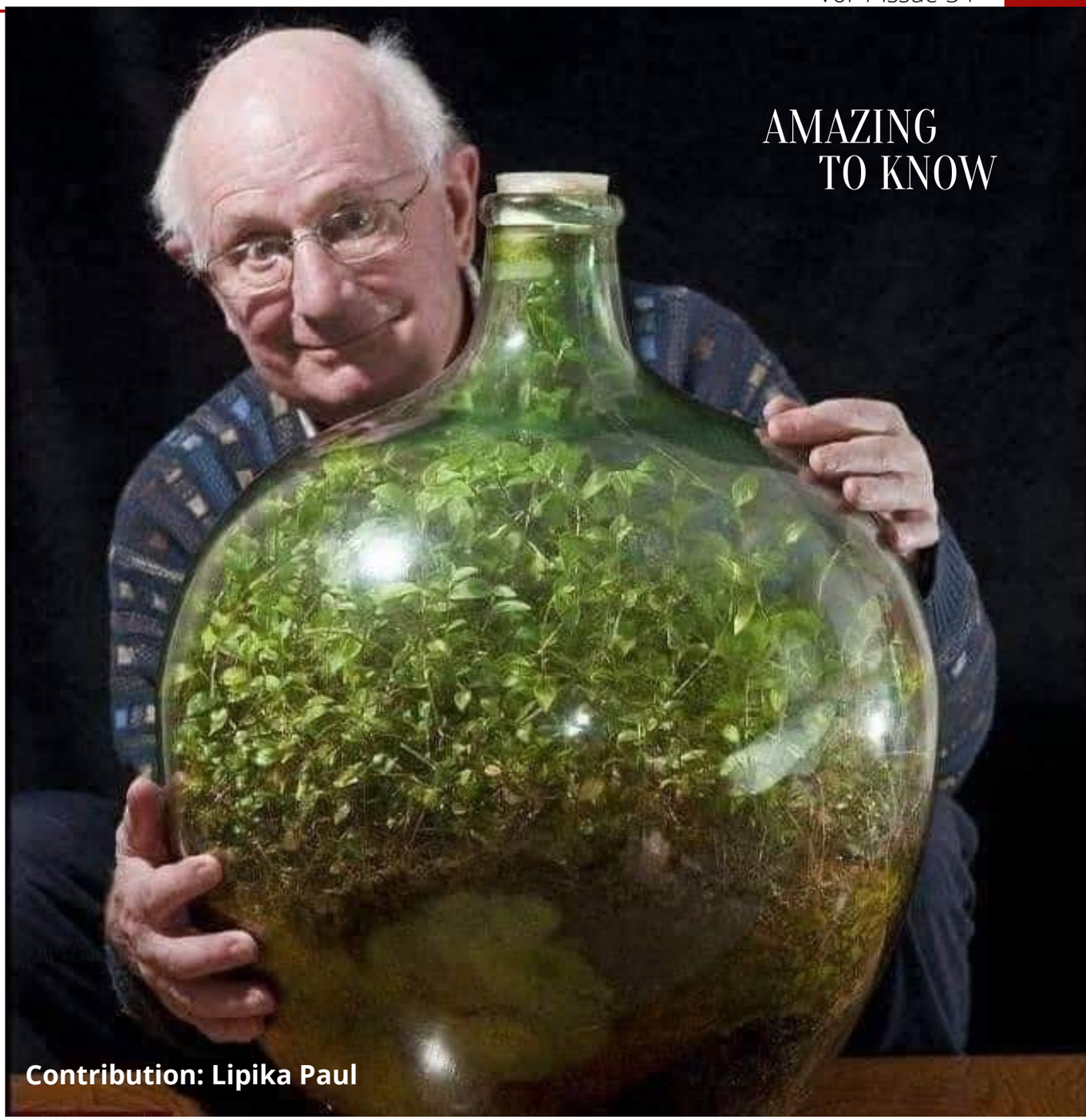
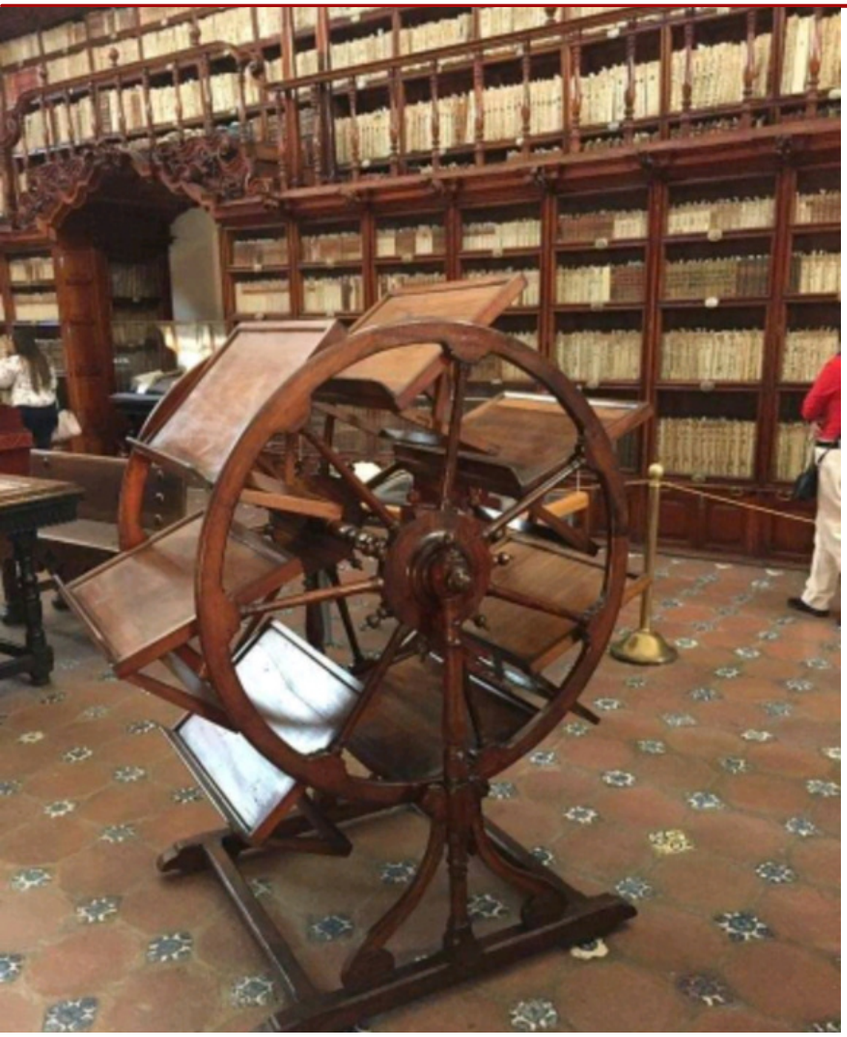



Contribution: Lipika Paul

In 1960, David Latimer (USA) planted a tiny garden inside of a large glass bottle and sealed it shut. He opened the bottle 12 years later in 1972 to add some water and then sealed it for good. The self contained ecosystem has flourished for nearly 60 years.

For those who are wondering how this is even possible: the garden is a perfectly balanced and self-sufficient ecosystem. The bacteria in the compost eats the dead plants and breaks down the oxygen that is released by the plants, turning it into carbon dioxide, which is needed for photosynthesis.

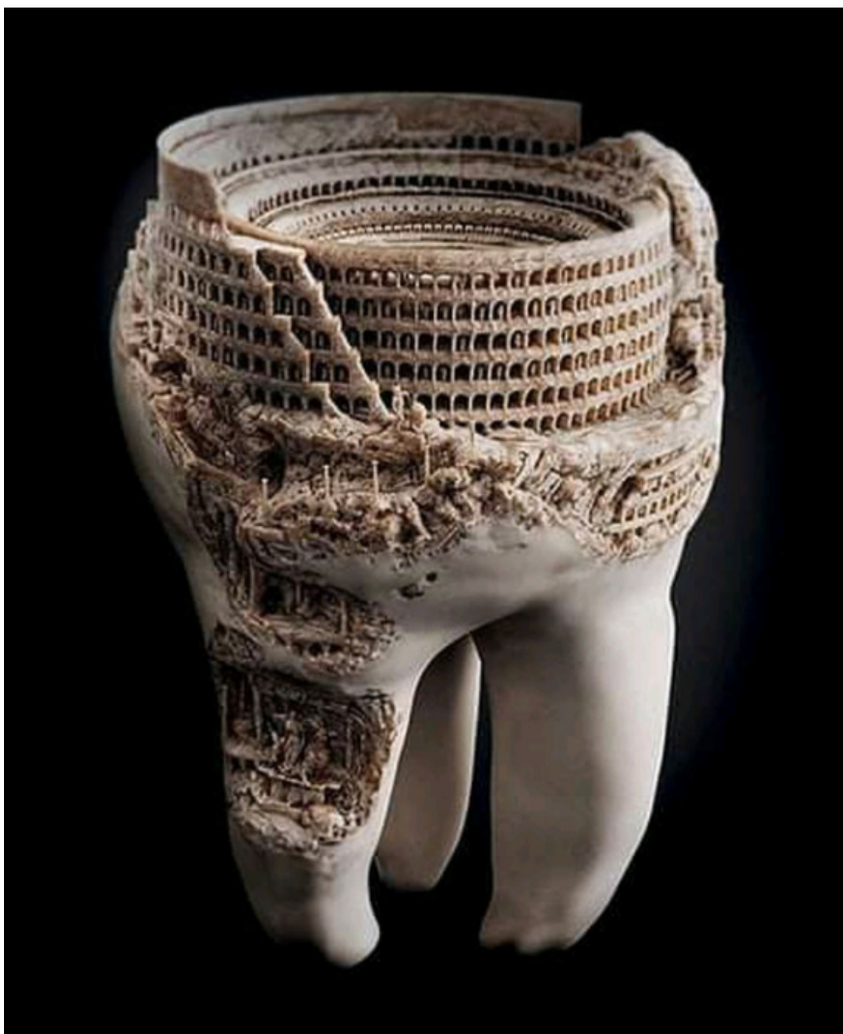
The bottle is essentially a microcosm of earth.



# AMAZING TO KNOW

A 300-year-old library tool that allows a researcher to "read" the research of seven books at the same time clearly. Mexico City Library.

**Contribution: Lipika Paul**



Artist: Dalton Ghetti - sculptor.

He is interested in miniature art.

Colosseum on a real tooth.

**Contribution: Lipika Paul**

AMAZING TO KNOW

Contribution: Lipika Paul

Kobayr (Armenian: Քոբայր) Monastery was built in 12th-13th century. Kobayr Monastery, which means ayr – cave in Armenian and kob-cave in Georgian, is located in Lori region of Armenia, on the slope of Debed gorge. In the Middle Ages, Kobayr Monastery was an important cultural and correspondence center in Armenia.

The Monastery of Kobayr is especially distinguished for its frescos and ornaments. According to the legend, the main heroine of the poem “Anush and Saro”, written by Hovhannes Tumanyan, throw out from the window of Kobayr church right to Debed gorge. In 2006 new restoration works had begun in Kobayr to give it a new architectural breath. The amazing Monastery of Kobayre is a must-see place in Armenia.

Wasco, Native American dress & belt with awl case, made of tanned leather, glass beads, shell, bone, & elk teeth, ca. 1870, in the MET Museum galleries.

Contribution: Lipika Paul

Ra Sh
Ravi Shanker N

**Ra Sh ( Ravi Shanker N)** is a poet and translator based in Palakkad, Kerala. He has published four collections of poetry, Architecture of Flesh (Poetrywala), Bullet Train and Other Loaded Poems (Hawakal), Kintsugi by Hadni (RLFPA) and In the Mirror, Our Graves, a chapbook with Ritamvara Bhattacharya.

Ravi Shanker is also a translator whose English translations include Mother Forest (Women Unlimited), Waking is Another Dream (Navayana), Don't Want Caste (Navayana), Kochiites (Greenex), How to Translate an Earthworm (Dhauli Books) and The Ichi Tree Monkey and new and selected stories of Bama (Speaking Tiger).

His play 'Blind Men Write' will be published by Rubric Publishing shortly.

## SILENT FAREWELLS

When things start leaving you
they don't say bye.
Silently, they leave in a row.

My dad did not say bye
when he died.
My mom did not say bye
when she died.

My house did not say bye
when it quietly collapsed.
My garden did not say bye
when it went under water.

Finally, my love my love
my love did not say bye
when she left
when she left.

When I left me
I left quietly
leaving no trail of good byes.
But I heard a violin from afar.

@rash 171121

This poem first appeared in the Modern Literature Magazine
https://www.modernliterature.org/silent-farewells-by-ra-sh/

**The Monkeying**

**Clicked at Ranthambore Tiger Reserve**

November 2021

OneWeek OneShot

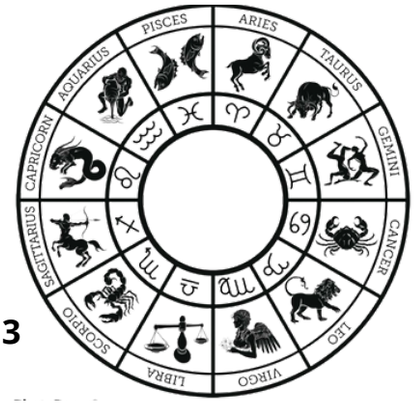
By:
**Aarzoo Khurana**

# Portraying KERALA

# WEEKLY Tarot Reading

## By: Chaitali Mukherjee

**https://youtube.com/c/TarotPriestess1313**




## Your Next 7 Days

**Dec 03-09, 2021**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Stripping away of all illusions regarding old beliefs, memories and relationships. New experiences will render the past into redundancy. Success and completion in a life cycle. Fulfilling and rewarding relationships. | **ARIES** | **LIBRA** | It's about time you brought out into the open the things you believe in or commit to. The power within and lessons learned in the past, will take you towards a spiritual union with a soul mate. Adopt the middle path. |
| Liberation. Moment of clarity and understanding. You have the chance to free yourself from addictions, co-dependencies and bad habits. You will go through a catharsis and a learning in this period. Your calm will bring in harmony and peace. | **TAURUS** | **SCORPIO** | You will be aware of coincidences in life currently. So, use the language of your soul, as you reach for goals and desires. The future can be yours, when you have hope and trust in everything you do. You will be rewarded for your efforts. |
| You will have power & influence to change the environment in favour of you. Contracts and legal issues will favour you. The ability to say no and choosing wisely from many options will steer you towards balance. Focus and determination will aid success. | **GEMINI** | **SAGITTARIUS** | You are on the right path, even though you feel otherwise. Allow the events to take their course. Despite your cynical attitude, luck will strike and a new door will open. Be patient to take advantage of it. Stand your ground. |
| Clearing away of obstacles from your path. Your efforts will be rewarded. Wishes will be fulfilled in life. You will lay a foundation of something that entails hard work. Name, fame, happiness, success is predicted this week. | **CANCER** | **CAPRICORN** | Something you used to care about no longer seems important or you are forced to abandon it. Onwards and upwards emotional regeneration is underway. You must be honest with yourself in the face of harsh truth. Time to go towards new shores. |
| Use the power within you to get over an emotional loss. Don't let nostalgia get the better of you. Let go of the past, there are bigger better things to come. You have done well, acted appropriately, so, time to take new chances. | **LEO** | **AQUARIUS** | Use cool logic and intellect to make the situations work for you. You have to keep an eye on your generosity, as you are advised to save for a rainy day. Legal disputes, malicious trickery from someone can create problems. The solutions lie in the past. |
| A movement towards peace and calm. The adventure of life will make you take a leap of faith towards an impending new path. A pleasant disruption will bring, sudden victory in a life full of challenges, right now. Start of a new successful chapter. | **VIRGO** | **PISCES** | You will have the power to break obstacles easily on your path. A truth regarding yourself will be revealed unwisely in the throes of passion. Don't allow yourself to be led, be brave take calculated action for success. |

**To know more about your reading, please watch her YouTube channel - Link in the Homepage**

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